Increasing Activities of PWG

1433. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the activities of People's War Group are increasing in several parts of the country;

(b) whether a large number of policemen were killed in a landmine blast triggered by PWD activities in Madhya Pradesh as reported in all leading newspapers dated 21st February, 2000;

(c) whether Government have taken any concrete steps to counter the escalation of Naxal activities in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa are primarily affected by the activities of People's War Group.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The Central Government has set up a Coordination Centre, headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the States affected by left wing extremism as its members, to review the steps taken by the States to check the left wing extremist activities, monitor the plan of action in respect of each State and to make recommendations both on development and security aspects of the problem. The Coordination Centre has had several meetings deliberating threadbare on all connected sensitive and relevant issues. Several important decisions such as providing financial support for combating left wing extremist activities, construction/improvement of identified critical roads, preparation of plans for development of affected areas to tackle the problem in a holistic manner, sharing of intelligence inputs on constant basis, providing help of Para Military Forces on need basis, etc. have also been taken and effectively followed-up.